

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 049330

1. DURING MARCH 11 MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS KANDE OF GOS MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DCM MADE ORAL DEMARCH EMPHASIZING HIGH IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. HE DESCRIBED US DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH SENEGALESE DURING MONTHS LEADING UP TO 31ST UNGA ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US, PARTICULARLY MATTERS WHICH MIGHT BE BROUGHT BEFORE INTERVENING GATHERINGS SUCH AS NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. DCM STRESSED THAT US HAD TAKEN FIRM POSITION THAT SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTIONS CHALLENGING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO WOULD BE CONSIDERED INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS. HE RECALLED OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY ON PUERTO RICO (DAKAR 5836) IN WAKE OF DAKAR COMMODITIES CONFERENCE AND OF LIMA NON-ALIGNED MEETING, AND ASKED IF KANDE COULD NOW FURTHER EXPALIN SENEGAL'S POSITION ON PUERTO RICO.

2. KANDE SAID THAT PUERTO RICO WAS NOT RPT NOT ISSUE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SENEGAL AND HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION THAT IT WAS DOMESTIC AFFAIR. UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, QUESTIONS

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WHICH WERE NOT IMPORTANT TO SENEGAL OFTEN BECAME OBJECT OF

POLITICAL BARGAINING IN NON-ALIGNED CONTEXT WHICH NECESSITATED
SENEGALESE SUPPORT. HE AGREED TO BRING ISSUE TO ATTENTION
OF FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH A VIEW TOWARD PREPARING
DECISION RECOMMENDATION ON PUERTO RICO FOR PRESIDENTIAL
CONSIDERATION. KANDE SAID THAT AFTER HE HAD DISCUSSED
QUESTION WITH MINISTER HE WOULD ADVISE WHAT ACTION WE SHOULD
TAKE NEXT. HE BELIEVED THAT WRITTEN DEMARCH BY US WOULD
PROBABLY BE REQUESTED. KANDE FELT THAT US EMPHASIS ON
"OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE" ANGLE MIGHT STRIKE RESPONSIVE CHORD
WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR, SINCE SENEGALESE PUBLICLY ATTACH
GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MAKING FOREIGN POLICY ON BASIS OF
ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES, AND HAD ADHERED TO ANGOLAN POLICY
PROMISED ON OPPOSITION TO OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. KANDE ASKED
THAT EMBASSY CONTINUE TO SUPPLY HIM WITH BACKGROUND MATERIALS
ON PUERTO RICO FOR DISCUSSIONS WITHIN GOS.

3. REFTEL SPECIFIES THAT US EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE ATTACHED
TO PUERTO RICO ISSUE MUST BE CONVEYD ORALLY. PLEASE ADVISE
WHETHER EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO SUPPLY DIPLOMATIC NOTE
SETTING FORTH IMPORTANCE OF PUERTO RICO (AND EMPHASIZING
OUR BELIEF THAT LIMA-STYLE RESOLUTIONS ON PUERTO RICO CONSTI-
TUTE INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS) IF WE ARE REQUESTED
TO DO SO BY KANDE.

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